FRIDAY'S JACKPOT
Lotto MAX
$16 MILLION
estimated

MARRIED IN MEXICO
PETER MACKAY WEDS RIGHTS ACTIVIST
{page 6}

THE ART OF STAGING A BEACH PARTY SCENE
{page 15}

TORONTO metro®
Thursday, January 5, 2012
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

Steeper penalty for road hogs?

- Increasing rush-hour parking fines to $150 would make Toronto among most expensive in North America
- Coun. John Parker argues higher fines without real enforcement amounts to 'largely a feel-good measure'

Issuing $150 fines to help alleviate Toronto's notorious, costly gridlock problem has united the Rob Ford administration and some critics on council's left.

The public works committee voted 3-2 Wednesday in favour of hiking the fine for motorists, including couriers, who park in bike lanes or on busy streets during rush hour. If approved by council next month, the penalty — up from $40 and $60 depending on the zone — would be among the toughest in North America.

Works chair Coun. Denzil Minnan-Wong noted that reducing traffic congestion is among Ford's four main priorities.

Committee members agreed parking enforcement officers, part of the Toronto police service, currently don't tag enough of the offenders. Some say ticket-issuing targets imposed on officers push them to expired meters and side streets with multiple offenders, rather than single vehicles blocking actual traffic.

Minnan-Wong said he expects city staff "to make sure the police are partners with us, understanding that congestion and gridlock are real issues for the city."

Keeping traffic moving safely is more important than ticket revenues, he added.

Coun. Mike Layton, a staunch Ford critic who first proposed with colleague Josh Matlow that the fines be jacked up to $500, called city staff's $150 proposal a reasonable compromise. The fines should be part of a co-ordinated strategy that emphasizes other ways, including public transit, of getting people around the city quickly and safely, said Layton, an avid cyclist.

But conservative Coun. David Shiner called the vote "a do-nothing." He wants parking enforcement to be given authority to put an immobilizing "boot" on offending vehicles until a tow truck can arrive. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Another parking idea {page 4}

Costly commute

- Statistics Canada reported in August Toronto had the worst commute in the country, with average times of 29 minutes by car and 49 minutes by public transit.
- The Toronto Board of Trade ranked the GTA dead last in its survey of North American commutes, saying an average 80-minute round trip bleeds the region of $6 billion in productivity and other costs.

Outdoor. Play

▶ The Toronto Maple Leafs practise at Sunnydale outdoor rink in Toronto on Wednesday, a day before their game against the Winnipeg Jets Thursday at the Air Canada Centre.

PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leafs brave the elements before taking on Jets

Sentencing

Disgraced bishop set free

- Raymond Lahey sentenced to 15 months for child-porn possession
- Gets out of jail early

{page 5}

Deportation postponed

Colombian refugee teen mom can stay until custody battle is settled {page 3}

Check out our latest offer on page 18

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Refugee mom can stay, for now

Colombian's deportation put off until family court settles her custody battle with baby's Canadian dad

A failed refugee from Colombia has been granted a reprieve to remain in Canada — for now.

The scheduled removal of 19-year-old Jessica Aristizabal Calrasco this week has been postponed until a Milton family court judge settles her custody battle with Daniel Ricardo Velasquez, 21, over 12-week-old Jonathan.

"It's good news, but it's not over. I can't think of being separated from my (Canadian-born) baby," said Aristizabal, who will try to convince a family judge Friday to deny her ex-boyfriend full custody of the baby.

Aristizabal, her mother Claudia, sister Marcela, and aunt, Veronica Torres, arrived in Canada in 2008 via the United States. Her mother claimed a guerrilla group killed her brother, then kidnapped and raped her and her sister-in-law.

Their refugee claim was rejected in 2009. Immigration officials subsequently deemed the family safe to return to Colombia and denied an application to stay on humanitarian grounds.

In late December, the federal court denied their appeal. A Jan. 6 court date has been set in Milton family court to settle the custody dispute, which raises the issue of what is best for Jonathan. Both parents have asked for the baby's full custody.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mom's fate

Immigration officials can still deport the mother even if the family court rules she should have shared custody, because immigration is a federal responsibility.

NICHOLAS KEUNG/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Jessica Aristizabal Calrasco and her son, Jonathan.

Suspect was on suicide watch

Murder suspect Andrew Roelink was in hospital on suicide watch a day before his mother was stabbed to death, the Toronto Star has learned.

Roelink, 22, a Seneca College student, was arrested in his family home in King Township on Monday evening, shortly after Hilda Roelink, 58, was pronounced dead in Southlake Regional Health Centre.

Her death was York Region's first homicide of 2012.

Roelink is charged with first-degree murder.

On Saturday, Roelink was detained and taken to the Southlake Regional Health Centre by York Region police on a mental health warrant, a source familiar with the investigation said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Andrew Roelink

News in brief

Man meant no harm: Court

'MURDER' POSTERS. Livingston Jeffers did not intend harm when he plastered posters of a city councillor with the word "murder" written on it, the Ontario Court of Appeal ruled on Wednesday, setting aside his conviction for mischief and counselling murder. It was his cry for help after his family lost its condominium, court said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Alleged gang sex assault

DOWNTOWN. Toronto police are searching for six men accused of a gang sexual assault on a 27-year-old woman, Tuesday evening.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1 news

Old photos meet new tech on smartphone apps that allow you to explore your city's past. Scan the code for the story.

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TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ A Via train travels west after departing Union Station.

Commuters need ticket to ride but Via don't care

Via Rail commuters are savouring the time left with their flexible passes that allow them to catch any train to and from work in Toronto, before that service is scrapped.

But when the end will come remains a mystery, leaving many formerly loyal Via Rail customers — such as 12-year commuter Anna Wilkinson — scouting out alternatives come D-Day.

The rail company announced the impending change from an open-ended ticket system to an "e-pass" system, whereby commuters have to reserve their seats in advance, online last summer.

"If I can't get to a computer to reschedule my ticket before departure — because I'm in a meeting or something — I lose my ticket," said Wilkinson, a sales assistant at Slater Financial Group who lives in Brantford.

A pack of 20 one-way tickets costs her $330 — $16.50 per trip.

"If I'm stuck on the subway, I lose the money," she said. "I don't think I'll be staying with Via Rail."

Instead, she is trying out the half-hour drive to Aldershot and taking the GO train.

Via Rail has not said when the flexible pass will disappear entirely.

The system left a percentage of seats reserved for commuters. If those seats are filled and the train is full, commuters stand on the trains. But that leaves too many empty seats when commuters take a later train or stay home, said Via Rail spokesperson Ted Byatalan last summer.

The e-pass is intended to make more seats available for full-fare customers. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"Via Rail has said it's not a commuter service.... (But) it is the only viable option outside the GO area."

FRAN FOULDS, BRANTFORD RESIDENT

Would extra parking fees keep 905ers away?

As Saint John, N.B., considers two-tier parking, some Toronto councillors agree there is potential in the idea of charging out-of-towners more to park

ROBYN DOOLITTLE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ A parking-enforcement officer tickets a vehicle near Eglinton and Yonge streets.

A controversial idea being tossed around in Saint John, N.B., might be a solution to the transit funding woes of Toronto.

Supported by Mayor Ivan Court, the Saint John city council is discussing charging motorists from low-tax suburbs and out-of-towners higher parking fees downtown than city residents.

The argument for the two-tier parking system is that the city infrastructure is being worn down by commuters who don't contribute to its upkeep.

The idea — which is still in its infancy — came out of a scramble to generate revenue for the city budget, a situation Toronto is only too familiar with. But what would happen if such an idea were brought up here?

First off, any two-tier parking plan can't discriminate between residents of Toronto, from downtown to the inner suburbs, said Ward 24 Councillor David Shiner, also vice-chair of the public works and infrastructure committee.

But charging the "free-riders" coming in from Mississauga, Brampton and Markham … that's an idea he's thought over and likes.

It would get people off the roads and onto public transit, freeing up the dreaded commute, an 81-minute round-trip on average, according to Statistics Canada.

Altaf Chaudhari is one of these free-riders. In a city parking lot before heading out on his hour-long drive home to Mississauga, he said he understands why Toronto residents would want him to pay for the infrastructure he uses. He has been commuting to downtown Toronto for 10 years.

"But the parking fee increase would have to be reasonable," he said, suggesting perhaps an extra 50 cents an hour.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'Novel approach'

▶ Rather than deterring people from working downtown, Ward 19 Councillor Mike Layton says the increased parking cost for out-of-town commuters could make the downtown core a more attractive place to work as well as visit.

▶ "It's the other things that we put our resources towards that make it such a great place," said the councillor, who sits on the public works and infrastructure committee. "This is an attempt to curb consumption, so use your car less, take public transit more, which is an interesting and novel approach."

Toll roads

An ideal system would still be one that affects all drivers, said Lawrence Solomon of the Urban Renaissance Institute. The extra revenue a "user-pay" toll generates could be used to lower Toronto taxes — so city residents still benefit and the free-riders pay.

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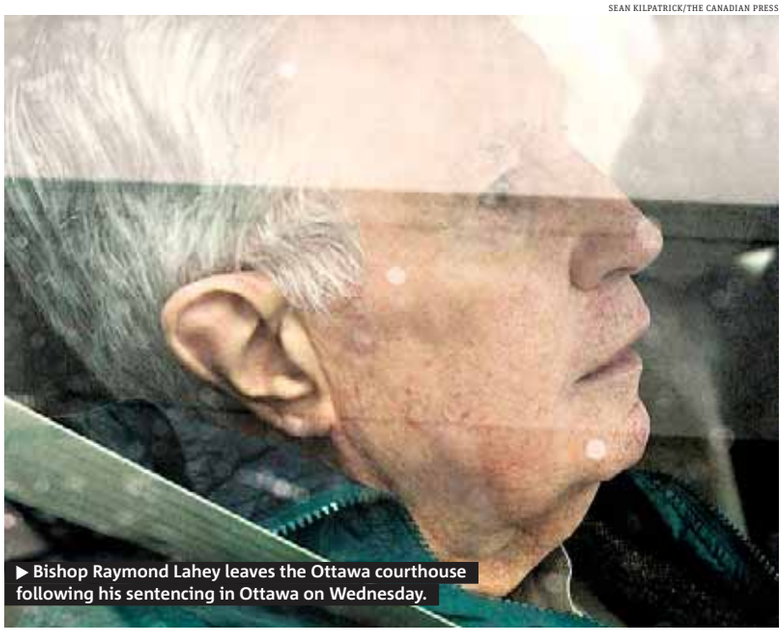

▶ Bishop Raymond Lahey leaves the Ottawa courthouse following his sentencing in Ottawa on Wednesday.

Sex-offender bishop set free

Raymond Lahey banned from possessing weapons, accessing porn via computer, contacting minors online

STEVE COLLINS
TORONTO@METRONEWS.CA
METRO CANADA IN OTTAWA

A disgraced Roman Catholic bishop caught at the Ottawa airport with hundreds of child-porn images on his laptop was released Wednesday after receiving a sentence of 15 months — only eight of which he served behind bars.

Raymond Lahey, 71, formerly bishop of Antigonish, N.S., pleaded guilty eight months ago to possession of child pornography for the purposes of importation and asked to begin serving his sentence immediately.

Wednesday, Justice Kent Kirkland sentenced him to 15 months, but because he got two-for-one credit for pre-sentencing time served, Lahey was freed. He will be on probation for two years and registered as a sex offender for 20 years.

His lawyer, Michael Edelson, had recommended the minimum one-year sentence, but said Kirkland imposed "exactly the right sentence." The jail time, Edelson added, is just the beginning.

"The sentencing in virtually every one of these cases essentially marks a person for life ... and, as a result, you become a social pariah," he said.

Prosecutors had asked for 18 to 22 months, but were also satisfied with the sentence.

"It'll serve to announce to others that harsh sentences are in place for those who commit such crimes, sentences which are also meted out to ensure the protection of our children," said Crown prosecutor David Elhadad.

An expert's view on child porn

The key witness in Raymond Lahey's sentencing is working on research he believes will show that sexual deviants who consume child pornography are less likely to abuse children now that child porn has gone online.

Dr. John Bradford, head of the division of forensic psychiatry at the University of Ottawa, has testified as an expert in numerous criminal trials and was a defence witness at Lahey's sentencing hearing in December.

His conclusion that Lahey was not a risk to children and, in fact, not a pedophile, despite possessing images and videos of children and teens, was a key part of the defence argument for a lesser sentence.

There are common misconceptions about child pornography, Bradford said in an exclusive interview with Metro shortly after the sentencing hearing.

"If you look at the majority of people who are arrested for child pornography, the majority of them have never touched a child," Bradford said.

JESSICA SMITH IN OTTAWA

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Now you see it ... now you don't

Scientists find a way of making it look like an event never happened Major step in invisibility research

It is one thing to make an object invisible. But scientists have made an entire event impossible to see.

Think of it as an art theft that takes place before your eyes and surveillance cameras. You do not see the thief strolling into the museum, taking the painting down or walking away, but he did. It's not just that the thief is invisible — his whole activity is.

What scientists at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., did was on a much smaller scale. It happened so quickly that it is not even a blink of an eye. Their time cloak lasts a tiny fraction of a fraction of a second. They hid an event for 40 trillionths of a second, according to a study appearing in Thursday's edition of Nature.

We see events happening as light reaches our eyes. Usually it is a continuous flow of light. In the new research, however, scientists, for the first time, were able to interrupt that flow, if only for an instant.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HEATHER DEAL/CORNELL UNIVERSITY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ In this illustration, scientists demonstrate how they have created a new invisibility technique that doesn't just cloak an object, but masks an entire event.

Disappearing act

- The Cornell team tinkered with the speed of beams of light in a way that would make it appear to surveillance cameras or laser security beams that an event, such as an art heist, isn't happening.
- Another way to think of it is as if scientists edited or erased a split second of history. It is as if you are watching a movie with a scene inserted that you do not see or notice. It is there in the movie, but it is not something you saw, said Moti Fridman, the study's co-author and a physics researcher at Cornell.
- The scientists created a lens of not just light, but time.

IPad passport didn't help man cross border: U.S.

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency says a Canadian man shouldn't credit his iPad for helping him enter their country.

The agency responded Wednesday to the case of Martin Reisch — a Montrealer who says he used a scanned copy of his passport and a regular driver's licence to cross into the U.S.

"The assertion that a traveller was admitted into the U.S. using solely a scanned image of his passport on an iPad is categorically false," Jenny Burke, a spokeswoman for U.S. Customs, said in a statement.

"In this case, the individual had both a driver's licence and birth certificate, which the CBP (U.S. Customs) officer used to determine identity and citizenship in order to admit the traveller into the country."

Reisch, however, has said he only handed the officer his iPad and driver's licence — and nothing else.

Reisch said he was about a 30-minute drive from the Vermont border last Friday when he realized he had left his passport at home.

He quickly remembered that a digital image of his passport was stored on his iPad and decided to head for the U.S. border anyway.

Reisch said the agent took his computer tablet and the driver's licence into the border office for about five minutes before allowing him to continue into the U.S.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Martin Reisch

In reality ...

- U.S. officials say border guards will not determine someone's identification from scanned or digital copies of passports or any other form of documentation compliant with the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.
- The documents accepted under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative include a passport, an enhanced driver's licence or a trusted traveller card, such as the Nexus pass.
- Still, a Canadian traveller can cross the 49th parallel, by land or sea, without presenting one of those documents.
- But there are no guarantees.

MacKay weds former beauty queen

One of Ottawa's most eligible bachelors is now officially off the market.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay quietly married longtime girlfriend Nazanin Afshin-Jam at a private ceremony in Mexico Wednesday.

He released a statement on his constituency website, announcing the nuptials, which took place in front of family and friends.

MacKay described Afshin-Jam, a human-rights activist and former Miss World Canada, as the most important person in his life.

The couple was first spotted in public together last year, although they reportedly met seven years ago when Afshin-Jam was in Ottawa to speak about human rights abuses.

The new bride was born in Iran, but fled Tehran with her family following the 1979 Islamic revolution and immigrated to North Vancouver, B.C.

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▶ Peter MacKay and new wife Nazanin Afshin-Jam.

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Death ... and dirty tricks

As Syria toll mounts, Assad regime is accused of hoodwinking Arab League's observers

Activists are accusing the Syrian regime — already damned for having the blood of thousands on its hands — of waging a dirty-tricks campaign against Arab League observers.

It's alleged the regime is misleading the observers by taking them to areas loyal to the government and changing street signs to confuse them.

The regime also sends its supporters into rebellious neighbourhoods to give false testimony, the activists say.

They also claim loyalists are painting military vehicles blue to make them look like police vehicles.

This allows the regime to say it has pulled the army out of heavily populated areas in accordance with the Arab League plan to end the bloody crackdown on dissent.

But Syrian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jihad Makdissi denied the allegations. "We don't interfere in the mission's job," Makdissi said.

Government escorts are necessary to protect the observers, Makdissi added.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The bloody toll

- A crackdown by President Bashar Assad's regime on a nine-month-old uprising has killed more than 5,000 people, reports say.
- The month-long observer mission by the Arab League started Dec. 27. But there are fears Assad loyalists have corrupted the observer process beyond repair.

MUZAFFAR SALMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ He's their man: Pro-Syrian regime activists shout slogans and hold photos of President Bashar Assad during a solidarity demonstration in Damascus on Wednesday.

Suppressed drug info sparks fears for patients

A British medical journal says drug studies are being suppressed by researchers and patient safety could be threatened.

Companies sit on information that could hurt sales, journals are uninterested in publishing negative results and academics are fearful of releasing results that contradict their original hypothesis.

One study found the results of fewer than half of drug trials paid for by the U.S. National Institutes for Health were published within 30 months.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The U.S. National Institutes for Health spends about $3.5 billion US sponsoring 100,000 clinical trials.

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Deadline set over implants

British Health Secretary Andrew Lansley has demanded that private U.K. clinics supply data by the end of the week on how many French-made PIP breast implants have ruptured in Britain.

The implants were pulled from the market last year in countries around Europe and South America amid fears they could rupture and leak silicone into the body.

France has recommended that an estimated 30,000 French women with the implants get them removed after more than 1,000 ruptures, and agreed to pay for the procedure.

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TekSavvy ready for a price hike

Company claims CRTC ruling has forced it to raise its Internet rates

Independent service provider TekSavvy Solutions Inc. plans to increase its Internet rates in response to a recent CRTC compromise decision on usage-based billing.

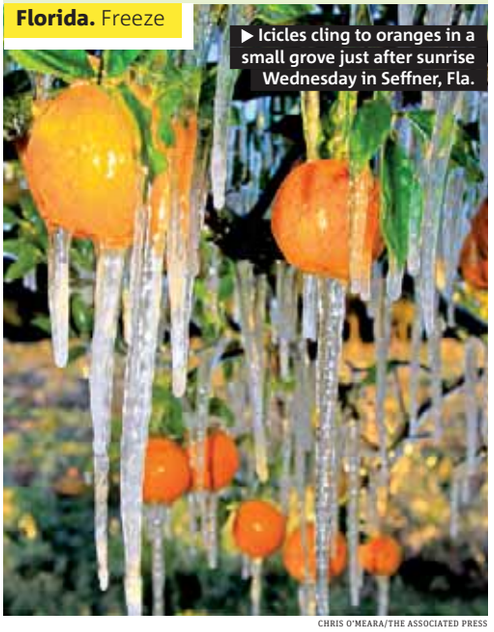
The Chatham, Ont.,-based company, a critic of the CRTC move, posted an announcement on its website Wednesday saying new rates would go into effect Feb. 2. "The cost of most of our 300GB packages will increase," the company said.

The move comes less than two months after the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission provided a compromise solution on the contentious issue, offering big telephone and cable companies like Bell and Rogers Communications a choice of either charging the resellers a flat rate per user or selling them a specific amount of network capacity. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bill changes

- Between $3 and $4 a month will be added to most 300GB packages.
- New speeds and unlimited bandwidth will be introduced for "more avid" Internet users but at a higher cost.
- For example, the planned high-speed DSL 25 unlimited services will be sold for $77.99 per month.
- The 300 GB meter will not run from 2 a.m. to 8 a.m. to allow for unlimited downloading in off-peak periods, says the company.

Florida. Freeze



▶ Icicles cling to oranges in a small grove just after sunrise Wednesday in Seffner, Fla.

CHRIS O'MEARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Orangesicle, anyone?

Temperatures in central Florida dipped into the negatives overnight, forcing farmers to spray water on their crops to help keep them around 0 C, protecting them from possible freeze damage.

Canadian car sales unsteady, but up

More Canadians treated themselves to a new car or truck last year than in 2010 as low interest rates and pent-up demand helped fuel a nearly two per cent growth in auto sales.

Automakers sold 1.59-million vehicles in 2011, up from 1.56 million in 2010, according to data released Wednesday by DesRosiers Automotive Consultants.

Though the growth in sales was uneven from month to month as economic uncertainty pervaded consumer sentiment, the overall trend was up.

Sales in December grew 2.6 per cent from the last month of 2010, capping off the year with the third consecutive month of sales growth.

Analysts predict 2012 sales will be in line with 2011 as a recession in Europe, slower growth in emerging markets and an uncertain economic and political climate in the U.S. continue to weigh on consumer sentiment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. WEDNESDAY

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas	Gold
+ 18.04 (12,226.47)	- 0.13¢ (98.78¢ US)	+ 0.26¢ US ($103.22 US)	$3.10 (+ 10¢)	$1,612.70 (+ $12.20)

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OF MICE AND THE MAN WHO LOVES THEM

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO

I think I love the mouse in my apartment.

It's not the love between a man and a woman, exactly, because I don't know its gender. But it feels right.

It is a forbidden love, frowned upon by the world, and it is a love brought about by fate: Of all the drywall joints in all the townhouses in all the world, it chewed into mine.

And if loving something means wanting it to be free, then I'll squeak it from the rooftops — I love my mouse.

Don't misunderstand: I realize that mice are disease-ridden vermin, which is why Mickey always wore white gloves — for safety's sake.

I'm aware that it's hard to endorse a creature that has used millions of years of evolutionary knowledge to perfect the art of pooping on your counter top.

And, personally, I'm annoyed that the little guy can find enough food in my apartment to survive even though I can't seem to, no matter how many times I open the fridge.

"And, personally, I'm annoyed that the little guy can find enough food in my apartment to survive even though I can't seem to, no matter how many times I open the fridge."

But, despite all that, I must love the mouse.

Why? Because I can't deal with the alternative.

As a journalist, I often worry that I'm jaded. Cover enough accidents and murders and Vic Toews, and eventually you get so cynical you can talk like this to a stranger: "I know this is a difficult time, but how did you FEEL when your dog fell into the thresher? Oh, don't cry. Please wait until the camera gets here."

But that worry evaporated last winter. I had a mouse back then, you see.

And so I bought glue traps, because the packaging said it was "humane" and it showed a cartoon mouse looking annoyed in the glue, as if it were going to miss its dinner with Speedy, Mickey and Mighty. Why, this was going to be fun!

Well, I don't want to get too gruesome about what happened, but the Gadhafi family would have been appalled. While the mouse squeaked at the same volume as the girl being eaten at the beginning of Jaws, I frantically ran outside with him, promising freedom.

I poured water on him — that's what the packaging said to do — and watched hopefully (run little buddy!) as he stopped moving entirely. Yes, I waterboarded the mouse.

And as I stood over his lifeless body, I vowed then and there that I would only love all the helpless rodents of the world. So, as you can see, I need to love the new mouse.

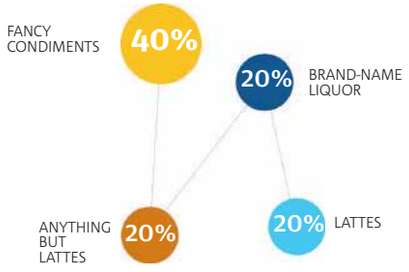
And if I must kill him, I will at least talk to its family, using all my compassion and empathy. Because I know this is a difficult time.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

The UN says we're set for another volatile year in food prices. What are you willing to give up if you have to pay more for dinner?



Local tweets

- **@Juleoneg:** RT @Greg Sansone: When Andrea Bargnani gets 30pts at home there should be Primo pasta for everyone. #Rigatoni #Ziti #Raptors
- **@JaynanJeya:** RT @raptors: #Raptors win over the Cavs 92-77 behind 31 pts from Bargnani, 25 pts from DeRozan & Calderon w/ 13 pts, 11asts. #RTZ
- **@GraphicMatt:** The Star floats the idea of charging 905ers more for parking in Toronto. Or we could just charge everyone more. bit.ly/xoRXoQ
- **@silenttoronto:** Talking pictures existed long before The Jazz Singer. Examples of talkies during the heydey of #silentfilm in #toronto silenttoronto.com/?p=1522
- **@humbercollege:** Humber College named one of 10 reasons to be optimistic about Toronto

Daily Zoom

NATASHA HARTH / REX FEATURES

Art attack ... by kids

Kids' stickers create artwork

QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA. If you want that statement-making design to jazz up your home interior, then perhaps look no further!

One artist has created a work where children can express themselves using coloured stickers. Yayoi Kusama's Obliteration Room is currently on display at the Queensland Art Gallery.

METRO WORLD NEWS

"With just one polka dot, nothing can be achieved."

YAYOI KUSAMA'S CANDID REMARKS ON THE MEANING OF HER ART

Boring room or blank canvas

INTERACTIVE ART. Curators suggest this sterile white room is a critique of everyday life drained of colour. But at the same time they say this colourless space acts "as a blank canvas to be invigorated — or 'obliterated,' changing measurably over time as the dots accumulate as a result of thousands of collaborators."

METRO WORLD NEWS

metro
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MMG Success Story of the Year

While we always love to share student success stories, on occasion one really stands out, surprising even us. This year we want to recognize ***Marc Ramsey*** *for providing our student success story of the year. Marc hit the ground running when he started working with MMG last spring. He has completed three flips including a high-rise luxury condo and a house that has been fully rehab-ed. Even more impressive is his most recent accomplishment.Marc just purchased a 44 unit apartment complex with three separate buildings for a mere $150,000. Once the rehab is completed, Marc will still be under $500,000. This will give him a stabilized asset of one MILLION DOLLARS with a NOI of over $200,000 per year. We cannot express how proud we are of Marc's accomplishment and are thrilled that MMG was able to help him realize his financial dreams.*

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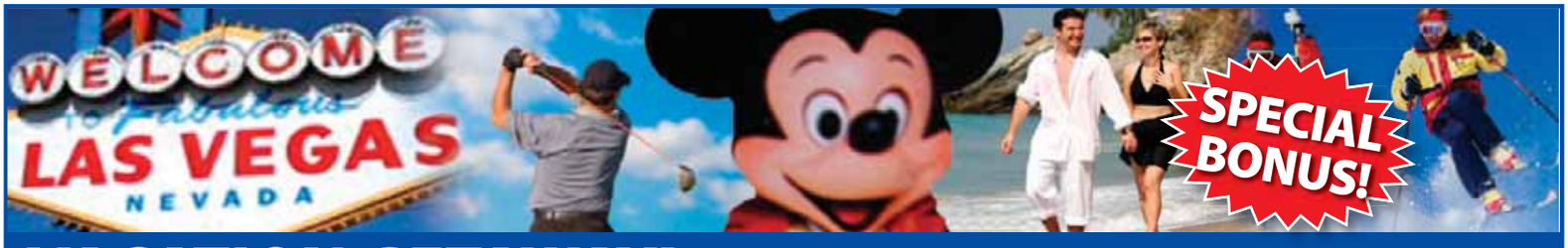

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Getting the party started

The Tiki Bikini Beach Paradise Party A-Go-Go captures spirit of the beach blanket bashes

BACKSTAGE PASS

IAN GORMELY
METRO TORONTO

The title Tiki Bikini Beach Paradise Party A-Go-Go doesn't exactly roll off the tongue, but it certainly gives a good indication of what viewers are in for when they go see the hit Fringe Festival musical.

Writer and director Allison Beula spontaneously blurted out the title while standing in her boyfriend's living room. She'd been mulling over the idea of creating an homage to the beach party movies of the 1960s.

"He thought the title was too long," she recalls. But after singing the title over and over, he changed his mind. "He thought it was catchy."

Beach party movies enjoyed widespread but brief popularity. There was typically little to no plot — they were all about dancing, singing and being on the beach. Adults ignored them, but teens flocked to theatres and drive-ins.

"There's this youthful enthusiasm to them," says Beula. "Teens thought they were the greatest thing on the planet."

A choreographer equally inspired by Fred Astaire and the Muppets, Beula created the show after becoming a fan of the genre, inspired by the films' youthful energy. Accepted by the Fringe Festival, she threw together a story and found a surf-rock band, the Von Drats, to perform the show's music.

"I kept sort of expecting not to be received well because no one died of a horrible disease," she jokes. "I like message shows too, but this is go be happy the entire time."

Much to her surprise, the show was not only received well, it became a runaway hit.

"It's great to be rewarded for who I am," she says.

This lead to its current run as part of the Nextstage Theatre Festival. Not bad for someone who is afraid of surfing.

The Tiki Bikini Beach Paradise Party A-Go-Go runs until Jan 15 at the Factory Theatre (125 Bathurst St.) Tickets are $10-$15.

Blanket bash

Although beach party movies can trace their origins back to 1959's Gidget, starring Sandra Dee, the genre took off thanks to American International Pictures' Beach Party.

Where the genre got its start: Starring Frankie Avalon and Annette Funicello, the film was a runaway hit with teens and set the stage for six further films with titles like Bikini Beach and Beach Blanket Bingo.

HANDOUT

▶ Chase away those winter blues with a trip to The Tiki Bikini Beach Paradise Party A-Go-Go

Slipstreaming into 2012

Bonnie Raitt prepares to release her first album in nearly seven years

Bonnie Raitt is releasing a new album in 2012, her first in seven years.

Slipstream, out April 10, follows a long break from studio work for the Grammy-winning Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member. She lost her parents, her brother and her best friend.

"I hadn't stopped moving in a very long time so I really wanted to take a total break and not concentrate on making a new record or what I was going to do next," Raitt said. "So that was really valuable because I waited until I was really ready to come back."

Slipstream is the 62-year-old slide guitarist's first album since 2005's Souls Alike, and will be the first release on her own record label, Redwing Records. The 12-track album will feature four songs recorded with producer Joe Henry and his musicians, which she describes as experimental. The remainder of the album is self-produced with her touring band.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHRIS PIZZELLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Bonnie Raitt

2 scene

Donald Trump

Mob boss widow Victoria Gotti, singer Clay Aiken and IndyCar champ Michael Andretti are on tap for the next edition of NBC's Celebrity Apprentice. Host Donald Trump announced the new batch of contenders and they also include Teresa Guidice, comedian Lisa Lampanelli, former Miss Universe Dayana Mendoza, rock star Dee Snider and America Chopper star Paul Teutul Sr.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NY-based grocery yanks, then restores, Alec Baldwin ads after support for actor.

The horrors of high school

My Babysitter's a Vampire comes to Canada
It's a supernatural spin on the trials of being a teen

HANDOUT

▶ The series My Babysitter's a Vampire is based on a TV movie of the same name.

Debuting in Canada this week is Teletoon's My Babysitter's a Vampire, a younger-skewing take on the monsters-meets-hormones genre also seen in the Twilight film franchise, the campy Space comedy Todd and the Book of Pure Evil, and CTV Two's The Vampire Diaries.

Toronto-bred star Matthew Knight, who plays earnest 14-year-old Ethan, says he hopes young viewers can learn a lesson or two as his show draws over-the-top parallels between the eternal battle of good and evil and the trials of growing up.

"I kind of feel like it makes kids ... feel like their (problems) are not the end of the world and they can get through it," 17-year-old Knight says of the show's weekly supernatural calamities.

The series' over-the-top hijinks — which include resurrecting dead family pets and navigating a suspicious school blood drive — are all in service of putting common teen anxieties into perspective, adds co-star Atticus Mitchell, who plays Ethan's trouble-making best friend Benny.

"You don't know what the end of the world is until you hit that bad point in your life when you're trying to get with your crush and it's like, 'Oh, I love you.' And all of a sudden — 'What? There are vampires! Zombies!'" says 18-year-old Mitchell, from Toronto.

"That's the end of the world, OK?"

The new series is based on the TV movie of the same name, which centred on the awkward Ethan, his precocious little sister Jane and his mischievous pal Benny.

In that 2010 comedy, billed as Teletoon's first original live action feature, Ethan's hopes of shedding his geek status are thwarted when his mom decides he's not mature enough to watch Jane and hires a babysitter from his school.

Ethan is mortified when it turns out to be his long-time crush Sarah, played by Vanessa Morgan, who just happens to be a newly formed vampire.

Ethan is also going through a transformation as he grapples with disturbing visions that seem to predict future events. And Benny, who learned from his Grandma that he's actually a young wizard, is struggling to cast magical spells without causing more harm than good.

"It's definitely a little bit lighter in the way that it's shot and the way the characters deal with it and just more family friendly," says Knight.

My Babysitter's a Vampire debuts Thursday on Teletoon.

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Tackling the tale of humans

The History channel to debut a 12-hour miniseries on mankind

After its successful series on the history of America in 2010, television's History channel is setting its sights even higher.

The network said Tuesday that a 12-hour miniseries, Mankind the Story of All of Us, will debut late this year. History, seen in more than 300 million homes worldwide, will offer different versions of the series in different parts of the world, the first time it has ever done that.

America the Story of Us hadn't even concluded when History executives, impressed by its ratings, began talking about what to do next, said Nancy Dubuc, the network's president and general manager.

"Rather than take a slice of the America story and do something more in depth on that, we decided to go bigger and broader," she said.

The new series starts with the Big Bang and traces the development of humans on a planet where the vast majority of species go extinct, said Jane Root, the project's executive producer.

Root described it as a "real action-adventure" project, one that encompasses astronomy, geology and other sciences along with history. The series traces the development of tools and the construction of the pyramids.

Root said the production tries to make viewers aware of what it felt like, for instance, to set sail for distant lands on a ship when the common belief was the world was flat.

Root said she was surprised to discover the amount of connections among cultures in ancient times, like when Vikings visited China and fought with people in what is now Canada, each before the time of Christopher Columbus.

"We all grow up in a place where we learn just our history," she said. "To try to bring it all together and yet still make it a real exciting story of how humans made it is a real challenge."

Air dates have not been set for the series, which will stretch over six days, but it will be within the last three months of 2012, the network said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A+E NETWORKS, JOE ALBLAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Mankind the Story of All of Us traces the development of humans on earth.

Ratings giant

▶ The America miniseries was the most-watched special ever on History, with 5.7 million people watching the first episode and nearly 40 million people in total watching some part of it, the Nielsen ratings company said.

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Celebrity tweets

@Joan_Rivers

This is the only time of year when I'm jealous of atheists. They don't waste their time taking down all the Christmas decorations.

@bobsaget

Today is the first day of the rest of your life. And if that doesn't work out for you, Tomorrow is the first day of the rest of your life...

@mradamscott

The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo is super funny.

@AmandaBynes

Not tweeting is the new tweeting.

Timberlake engaged?

Singer proposes to Jessica Biel on top of mountain, according to sources

After quietly getting back together in 2011, Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel have reportedly gotten engaged just as quietly.

Sources tells Us Weekly that Timberlake popped the question on top of a mountain in Jackson, Wyoming, during a snowboarding vacation.

"Justin knows how much she loves snowboarding and the mountains, so it was the perfect place," the source says.

"He knew it was the right time to propose." The pair broke up briefly last year, and "when they reunited, they had a conversation about taking the next step," the source says. METRO

▶ Jessica Biel and Justin Timberlake

Running back to The Running Man?

After reconnecting with estranged husband Arnold Schwarzenegger over the holidays, Maria Shriver is reportedly reconsidering her planned divorce from the former California governor, according to OK! Magazine.

"She's definitely having second thoughts about going ahead with the divorce," says a source close to the family, who adds that Shriver's friends aren't too pleased with the latest development: "All her friends are up in arms that she's considering a reunion," the source says.

"She's close friends with Oprah (Winfrey), who would never encourage her to go back to a man who fathered a child with the housekeeper." METRO

Maria Shriver

Mendes hangs with Gosling's mom

If there were any doubts that Ryan Gosling and Eva Mendes were getting serious, their recent behaviour should put them to rest.

While visiting New York, Gosling reportedly took Mendes to the movies along with his mother, according to People magazine.

"They all hung out and went to the movies together," a source says.

"Ryan and Eva seemed very happy."

And they seemed even happier before arriving in New York, while still at the airport in Los Angeles.

"They kept kissing and hugging while they waited to board their flight," says a source.

"Eva looked gorgeous and kept smiling." METRO

▶ Ryan Gosling

Cannon suffers kidney failure

Nick Cannon was hospitalized this week in Colorado for kidney failure, wife Mariah Carey revealed on Twitter. "Please pray for Nick as he's fighting to recover from a mild kidney failure," Carey wrote in a post accompanied by a photo of the pair in a hospital bed. The singer noted that a visit to the hospital seems to be an annual tradition for the couple: "Last year it was me attached to the machines," she wrote, referring to the birth of their twins, "and Nick was there with me through it." METRO

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Dewey in the dark winter

It's January and it's cold and dry Yes this is obvious, but the fixes for your chapped skin may not be Try these tips from dermatologists to save your skin from the rough season ahead

ISTOCK

Use a conditioner in your hair more frequently during the winter.

Showers

Don't take extra hot showers. As much as you want the comfort of that heat when it's chilly, there's less moisture in the air during winter and hot showers can further dehydrate your skin, says Dr. Neil Sadick, clinical professor of dermatology at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York.

"Make showers as tepid as you can tolerate," he says. If you can't stand the chill, find a space heater safe for bathroom use.

Moisturizing is so important this time of year because it protects the outer layer from winter's wrath while retaining natural moisture from within.

Hair and nails

Don't ignore hair and nails. They're made of the same compounds as skin and crack in similar fashion, says Dr. Alicia Zalka, a dermatology professor at Yale. "I don't think people realize that when nails split it's 90 per cent from lack of proper moisture." B vitamin supplements can improve skin, hair and nails during winter.

"They're better for the skin when ingested, rather than when you put them on the skin topically," Zalka says.

"If you've got the driest of dry skin, the best defence for that is a couple of days of plain old Vaseline."

DR. ALICIA ZALKA, ASSOCIATE CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF DERMATOLOGY AT YALE

Stay away from products that contain detergents because they can remove protective, essential oils.

"Humidify the air in your home, especially in your bedroom so that healing and repair can take place while you sleep."

DR. DAVID ORENTREICH
CLINIQUE DERMATOLOGIST

Don't assume that drinking water or replacing fluids internally is enough to keep your skin healthy during cold weather.

Sunblock

Don't forget sunblock. It's just as important during winter as it is in summer, experts say, especially during winter sports like skiing at high altitude.

"In the winter it feels cold because very little infrared light reaches the earth," Dr. David Orentreich says. "The opposite is true in the summer. However, in the winter ultraviolet light is 90 per cent as strong as it is in the summer but since we can't feel or see it we mistakenly think it's absent, too."

Application of a broad-band screen once a day should suffice, Sadick says. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Style pick

Get the boot

A nearly century-old hunting boot is catching on with a younger generation that sees the utilitarian footwear as hip.

L.L Bean's familiar duck boot with leather uppers and rubber soles — designed for slogging through mud and snow — has become something of a fashion statement owing to its newfound popularity on college campuses, the company says. Another reason is new styles, including something Leon Leonwood Bean surely never envisioned in 1912: bright blue and pink leather, new for spring.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

L.L. Bean's duck boot

Red carpet starlets ready to give the time to do 1950s style up right

Jeanne Space

In this hectic modern world, Twitter has become a cool and succinct way of communicating. It allows me to be accessible, instantly speak my mind, and connects me with all kinds of people. Whether it's a fashion question, or you just want to comment on life's bigger picture, I'd love to hear from you.

@Jeanne_Beker:
Any suggestions for getting back into the WORK mode? Vacation was over too quickly. Now it's time to deal with LIFE.

- **@TheStyleStrut:** Meditate, coffee, exercise - not necessarily in that order!
- **@Jeanne_Beker:** Okay! Think I'll start with coffee....
- **@MeaganArtisan:** Buy a new lipstick, or peice of clothing & get excited to show it off. That always helps me to get on schedule. ;)
- **@Jeanne_Beker:** That sounds like a nice quick fix! (And shopping is always good for the economy too...)
- **@TheImageis:** book another vacation as a goal to work towards ... It's the light at the end of the tunnel - :)
- **@Jeanne_Beker:** Now THAT is a very cool idea

▶ @Jeanne_Beker: Skiing the Sierra Nevada, in Spain!!! (Dec. 30)

TUNE INTO FASHION TELEVISION EVERY SUNDAY AT 5:30 P.M. (ET) ON CTV.
JEANNE BEKER'S FINDING MYSELF IN FASHION (PENGUIN) IS AVAILABLE IN BOOKSTORES NATIONWIDE.

How to 'make it work' after losing weight

There are people out there who really do stick to their New Year's resolution and take off those last 10 pounds – or more.

But sometimes, says fashion guru Tim Gunn, they don't know how to show it off, or even find clothes that fit.

"Once you've reached your goal, it's time to go shopping or at least alter your old clothing. ... My mantra about 'getting' fashion is silhouette, proportion and fit. When they are in balance, you'll look great in whatever you're wearing," he says.

When women are in a transitional phase, he suggests a wrap-style top or dress, which basically adjusts itself to changes in your body.

He'd also steer people toward V necklines instead of a crewneck or boatneck. V necks lead one's eye up to the wearer's face, he explains, which can make a flattering line.

Pants often can be taken in to accommodate a smaller size because they have mostly straight seams, Gunn explains, but jackets and blazers are trickier for a tailor to fix if shoulder seams start to creep down the arm. Men especially have an issue with collars.

The least flattering look? Clothes that are baggy, says Gunn, the Project Runway mentor and soon-to-be host of the daytime talk show The Revolution.

The more fabric there is, the more of you there is to look at." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEIGHT WATCHERS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Tim Gunn, left, helped Weight Watchers contest winner Abby Dale shop for new clothes after losing 92 pounds.

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Stand firm when it comes to cellulite

THE KIT

By Deborah Fulsang

"Eighty-five per cent of women have cellulite and the 15 per cent that don't, think they do," says Dr. Shimon Eckhouse, The Kit's expert for face advisor. His company explores light-based technology to target and treat the dreaded orange-peel skin.

No wonder the industry is booming. One new report claimed sales for cellulite products hit the $11.8-million mark last year in the United States. Safe to say the category is healthy here in Canada, too.

But beware, says Dr. Lisa Kellett, a dermatologist in Toronto, there's no magic bullet. "Topicals are not drugs. They're not going to go down to a level that they're going to get rid of cellulite," she says. "They might plump up the skin temporarily, much like if you went home and took a loofah to your skin and scrubbed at it. You could cause swelling in the skin to improve the appearance."

The bottom line on cellulite? "There is no cure." You can, however, make surface improvements. And for many, of course, appearances count.

Tip: Be sure to exfoliate before applying your chosen smoothing cream. A good scrub preps the skin to allow active ingredients to perform at their max.

DROP INTO THEKIT.CA FOR BEAUTY INSIDE AND OUT.

SCOPE BEAUTY

▶ Smooth as a baby's bottom? It's not the reality for most women.

Hot new decor trends

Design expert Karl Lohnes tells us what's new and fresh for 2012

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Trends change yearly. Here's four of the most popular ones for 2012.

LARGE FLORAL PATTERNS

Flowers are back; they are bright and big and look modern.

Add a large floral print to just a headboard in the bedroom, the back panel of a chair or Euro-sized pillow shams in the living room for a burst of colour this year.

Up-cycling

Last year we painted old dressers trendy colours, and this year it's about investing in good stuff. Find an antique chair and upholster it with a cashmere/wool blend fabric, have a custom lampshade made or add luxe trims to a set of old velvet drapes. It's the small investments that will offer up classic style.

CB2 STORES

▶ Flower sutra artwork, CB2 stores

ANTHROPOLOGIE

▶ Curvy-lined furniture helps to round out a room. Amelie sofa in blazing poppies fabric; $3,300, Anthropologie

CURVY FURNITURE

Low, deep and lounge-like was all the rage last year for sofas and chairs.

For those with enough strength (or a crane) to get out of these you can say goodbye and sit on something more comfortable.

Traditional style is making a return and curvy-lined furniture is feeling most welcome after two decades of square-edged, hotel-inspired furnishings. Look for the classic camel-back shaped sofas and organic shaped side tables to round out your rooms.

BENJAMIN MOORE PAINTS

▶ Orange tones will dominate wall colours for 2012. Massada; Benjamin Moore Paints

ORANGE

Last year we said goodbye to the suburban beiges and honey browns and replaced it with cooler tones like sea glass and pale greys. This year it's all about being optimistic; happy colours and every shade of orange is topping the list for paint colours. From pale rust to sherbert tangerine, this citrus colour is topping 2012's list for painted walls.

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF KARL'S 2012 DECOR TRENDS VISIT METRONEWS.CA

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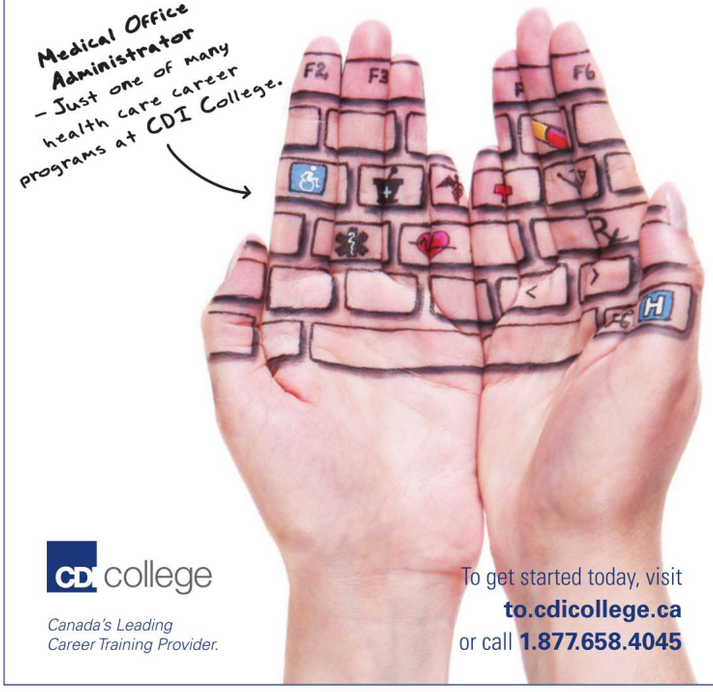

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A new menu for a new year

In her cookbook My Father's Daughter, movie star turned domestic goddess Gwyneth Paltrow shares some easy, healthy recipes You can eat like a Hollywood star, while still enjoying carb-heavy pasta and muffins

Sweet potato ravioli

For the pasta:

1. Whisk together whole eggs and yolk in a bowl. Put flour in a big mixing bowl, make a well in the centre and pour the eggs into the well. Slowly bring in flour using a fork and knead by hand until a dough forms. Add more flour if dough is sticky. Leave to rest for at least 10 minutes.
2. Take out your pasta machine. Cut dough into 8 pieces and roughly form into triangles. Dust with flour. Starting on the widest setting, put one piece through the machine. Fold the dough over itself and go through again on the same setting. Repeat this process on each setting, going from widest to thinnest until you are left with a long thin sheet.
3. Repeat the process with all the pieces of dough, covering them with clingfilm.

For the filling:

1. Steam the sweet potato pieces for 20 minutes or until cooked through. Mash in a bowl and stir in cheeses. Season with salt, pepper and nutmeg. Let the mixture cool before proceeding.
2. Dollop filling along half the pasta sheets, leaving 5 cm between each spoonful. Using a pastry brush, brush egg white along the tops and bottoms of the pasta sheets and between each dollop of filling. Lay the untouched pasta sheets over the filled ones. Using your fingers, seal the edges around each bit of filling. With paring knife, cut ravioli into squares.
3. Using your fingers, pinch each ravioli's edges to be sure that they're sealed.
4. Bring pot of salted water to boil. Cool ravioli for 2 ½ minutes. Top with butter, sage and Parmesan.

▶ Gwyneth Paltrow

Serves: 8
Total prep: 1½ hours

Ingredients:

For the pasta:
- 2 organic large eggs
- 10 organic large egg yolks
- 225 g unbleached plain flour, plus more for kneading

For the filling:
- 1 sweet potato, peeled and cut into 8 pieces
- 4 tbsp finely grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tbsp mascarpone
- Coarse salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- Freshly grated nutmeg
- 1 large white egg, beaten

For finishing:
- 50 g unsalted butter
- 6 fresh sage leaves, sliced
- grated Parmesan cheese

Serves: 4
Total prep: 15 minutes

Tuna and ginger burger

Ingredients:

For burger:
- 1 tsp wasabi powder
- 2 tsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp water
- ½ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- ½ tsp coarse salt
- 1 tbsp peeled and finely chopped fresh ginger
- 1 tbsp peeled and finely chopped garlic
- 1 ½ tbsp groundnut oil, plus more for cooking
- 450 g highest quality tuna, cut into 2.5 cm pieces
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 3 shallots peeled and thinly sliced
- 2 wholemeal hamburger buns
- 125 ml soy & sesame mayo
- Handful fresh rocket

For topping:
- 125 ml vegenaise or mayo
- 2 tsp soy sauce
- 2 tsp toasted sesame oil

Preparation:

1. Combine the wasabi, mustard and water. Scrape into food processor along with pepper, salt, ginger, garlic and groundnut oil. Pulse it together. Add the tuna and pulse just to combine — be careful not to overprocess the tuna. Form into 4 burgers and set in the refrigerator for at least one hour (up to overnight).
2. Meanwhile, heat olive oil over medium high heat in frying pan. Add shallots and sauté for 10 minutes, until soft and sweet. Reserve.
3. Preheat barbecue or griddle pan over high heat. Rub tuna burgers with groundnut oil and grill for 2 to 3 minutes a side, to desired doneness. Spread buns with mayo, pile on the sautéed shallots and a bit of rocket.
4. Whisk together ingredients for topping.

Raps find Jurassic spark

Bargnani scores 31, DeRozan adds 25 in win over Cavs Thompson held to one point

92	77
RAPTORS	CAVALIERS

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Cavaliers forward Tristan Thompson draws a foul on James Johnson Wednesday night.

Andrea Bargnani scored 31 points on 11-for-16 shooting and the Toronto Raptors won for the second game in a row, 92-77 over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday.

DeMar DeRozan added 25 points on 9-for-18 shooting for the Raptors while Jose Calderon had 11 assists to go with 13 points.

The Raptors took the lead late in the first quarter and held it the rest of the way for their second victory of the season over the Cavs.

Antawn Jamison led Cleveland with 19 points with Kyrie Irving adding 12 and Omri Casspi scoring 10. Anderson Varejao led all rebounders with 13.

Cleveland rookie forward Tristan Thompson of Brampton scored one point in just under 17 minutes and was 0 for 5 from the field.

The Raptors took a 15-point lead into the fourth quarter but learned in their games earlier this season that a big lead was no guarantee of a win.

The Cavaliers scored the first five points of the fourth, but Leandro Barbosa responded by hitting a 34-footer for three points that brought a gasp from the crowd.

DeRozan hit his fourth three-pointer of the game with 8:52 to play in the third quarter to put Toronto into a 10-point lead. Led by Bargnani's 11 third-quarter points, the Raptors opened up a 66-51 lead going into the final quarter.

The Raptors beat the Cavs 104-96 in the opening game of the season for both teams on Dec. 26 in Cleveland. But Cleveland (3-3) won three of their next four games before Wednesday's game as Toronto (3-3) lost three in a row before beating the New York Knicks 90-85 on Monday.

Bargnani scored eight points and DeRozan had seven as Toronto led 21-18 after the first quarter.

Toronto built the lead to nine points late in the second quarter but Cleveland cut it to four before DeRozan hit a three-pointer with the last shot of the half, a 28-foot, pull-up jumper, to make the half-time score 46-39.

DeRozan finished the first half with 15 points that included going 3 for 3 on three-pointers. Bargnani added 10 for Toronto while Jamison led all first-half scorers with 17 points for the Cavs.

Thompson, 20, entered the game with 1:09 left in the first quarter and received a round of applause. He left 26 tickets for friends and family and figured that he had a contingent of about 200 supporters cheering for him.

The Cavaliers took Thompson with the fourth pick overall in the first round in the 2011 draft. He is the highest picked Canadian in the modern history of the NBA draft.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4 sports

Leafs preview

Winnipeg at Toronto
7 p.m.
TV: Leafs TV

The Jets (19-15-5) and the Leafs (19-15-5) face off for the second time in six nights. Winnipeg defeated Toronto 3-2 on Saturday. The Jets lost to Montreal 7-3 on Wednesday, missing a chance to put two points between them and the Leafs in the Eastern Conference standings. Winnipeg has won three of the last four, while Toronto hopes a 7-3 win over Tampa Bay on Tuesday will help them get back on track to start the new year. Joffrey Lupul had four points against the Lightning and has 44 on the season, one behind Phil Kessel for the team lead.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scan code for more sports.

Crease cracks starting to show

THE HOCKEY NEWS

ADAM PROTEAU
TORONTO@METRONEWS.CA

Take a look at the top five teams in the NHL's Eastern Conference and you'll see a pattern in net: veteran goaltending.

The Boston Bruins and New York Rangers respectively employ superstars Tim Thomas and Henrik Lundqvist. The Pittsburgh Penguins have young Stanley Cup champion Marc-Andre Fleury. The Philadelphia Flyers and Florida Panthers rely on longtime NHLers Ilya Bryzgalov and Jose Theodore.

And the Leafs? Well, they've still got two relatively unproven puck-stopping commodities in James

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Leafs goalies James Reimer, left, and Jonas Gustavsson practise at Sunnydale Acres outdoor rink on Wednesday.

Reimer and Jonas Gustavsson. While I'm not suggesting Toronto is in 10th place in the East because they don't have a tried-and-true goalie, I do think acquiring an experienced netminder would help their playoff push.

At the start of the season Reimer had the starting job, but a concussion derailed him for six weeks, and since he returned in early December, he's been far from the force that thrilled Leafs fans last season, posting a 7-4-4 record, 3.01 goals-against average and .900 save percentage. Meanwhile, the third-year NHLer Gustavsson (10-7-0, 3.26 GAA, .896 SP) has been shaky as much as he's been solid, and, like Reimer, unable to steal a game or two. Indeed, it says a lot when current AHLer Ben Scrivens holds the highest save percentage on the Leafs.

The question then, is who does GM Brian Burke target? While the easy answer is an elite young goalie stuck behind an established starter — Cory Schneider in Vancouver, or Jonathan Bernier in Los Angeles — the price Burke would have to pay in a trade is likely too high. A wiser choice would be a guy like Minnesota backup Josh Harding, a 27-year-old with five years in the NHL putting up tremendous numbers (2.03 GAA, .934 SP) and set to become an unrestricted free agent this summer.

Harding won't usurp Wild starter Nicklas Backstrom and rebuilding Minnesota wouldn't ask for the world in a trade for him. He could blossom into a full-time No. 1 in Toronto, or at least push Reimer and Gustavsson for playing time and force them to either improve or be pushed to the side.

For all we know, Gustavsson or Reimer could yet become the long-term starter. But as a tandem, they're not getting it done. And Toronto can't afford to let them learn on the job if they want to keep playing past the regular season.

Sports in pictures

PHOTOS
1.NICK WASS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE
2. DAVID RAMOS/GETTY IMAGES
3.KEVIN C. COX/GETTY IMAGES FILE

1 Calgary Flames forward Rene Bourque was suspended five games Wednesday for an elbow on Washington Capitals forward Nicklas Backstrom on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

2 Lionel Messi netted a pair of goals in Barcelona's 4-0 win over Osasuna in the Copa del Rey. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 Memphis Grizzlies forward Zach Randolph will miss six-to-eight weeks with a torn MCL in his right knee. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Still something to play for

Canada tries to shake off disappointment of loss to Russia and focus on beating Finland to win the bronze

The disappointment was still in the eyes of the Canadian players a day after their semifinal loss at the world junior hockey championship.

As they prepared to play Finland for the bronze medal, furrowed brows and grim expressions indicated Tuesday's 6-5 loss to Russia was still on their minds.

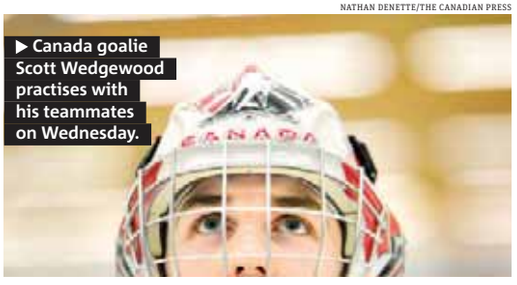
But they will have to let it go for Canada to avoid finishing out of the medals at the tournament for the first time in 14 years.

Finland, a dark horse which has improved since the competition got underway, will certainly be motivated to win bronze Thursday after falling 8-1 to Canada in the tournament-opener in Edmonton.

Russia will play for it second straight title in Thursday's gold-medal game against Sweden.

As per his usual practice, Canadian head coach Don Hay wouldn't reveal whether it will be Scott Wedgewood or Mark Visentin in Canada's net Thursday because he tells his starting goalie the night before the game.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Canada goalie Scott Wedgewood practises with his teammates on Wednesday.

While Wedgewood admitted he was sore after Russian defender Alex Khokhlachev crashed into him in the second period Tuesday, he said he would be able to play Thursday.

"You've got to win a game to get a medal now," Wedgewood said Wednesday. "We've got to take pride in that and it still means something to us.

"Ten years from now looking back, you go into that game and don't give it your all and you walk away with nothing ... it's better to have something."

Without the adrenaline that a possible gold medal brings, the Canadians were feeling the slings and arrows of the tournament.

The upper-body injury Scott Harrington suffered in the preliminary round kept him out of Wednesday's practice. Hay didn't sound sure the defenceman would be able to play Thursday.

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Storage Mart #3007 542 Evans Avenue, Etobicoke ON M8W-2V4: #110 Brett Caldwell, #2306 Elena Lakusta, #3009 Patrick Bailey, #3213 Erica Bartolome, #3314 Toronto Mortgage helpline c/o Mukesh Patel, #5570 Isaac Dawtey • **Storagemart #3008 680 Kipling Avenue, Etobicoke, ON M8Z-5G3:** #1300 C.S.T Consultants Inc. Branch 643, #1416 C.S.T Consultants Inc. Branch 643, #1433 Multitel Communications, #1446 Sawson Hersi, #4022 Mandeep Singh, #4023 C.S.T Consultants Inc. Branch 643, #4058 Diana L Melnyk, #4092 Cory Leblanc • **StorageMart #3009 110 Guided Crt, Etobicoke, On M9V-4K6:** #A0025 Anamaria Renda, #A0050 Toronto Spine Clinic, #A0077 Ana Huezo, #A0117 Donald Cater, #C0084 George Cirillo, #C0094 Dwight Stoddart • **Storage Mart #3012 144 Norseman Street, Etobicoke ON M8Z 2R4:** #2309 & 2304 Robert Chorny, #4516 Obi Orakwue • **Storage Mart #3013 221 Todd Baylis Blvd, Toronto ON M6M-4L2:** 2060 Emanuel Spencer, #2070 Maria Dacosta, #2200 Shannon Walters, #3103 Andrew Harrison, #2074 Justin Wallace, #3104 Carla Boyce, #2066 Howard Sharpe • **Storage Mart #3014 555 Trethewey Drive, Toronto ON M6M-4B8:** F024 Obiri-Yaboah, P031 J and J Construction ltd. P045 Anton Kainer, P046 Anton Kainer,D1012 J.R. Sales & Distribution, D1041 J.R. Sales & Distribution, D1083 Curtis Cannell, D1086 Wendy Joseph,.D1087 Edgar Simon, D1111 Vanessa Araujo,D1116 Alicia Wright, D1134 Nasteexo Dirie, D1151 Ebonee Scott, D2020 Tricia Blades, D2023 Alberto Delle Donne, D2080 Sherena Holt, D2105 Ndeye Sy, D2183 Lydia Robert, D2338 Sikeria Black, D2401 Luiza Mendes, E1072 Lincent Williams, E1078 Stanley Ezikpeagwu, E1104 John Manson, E2142 Eric Lindsay, E2145 Emergent Equity Group, E2276 Shanic Qua Woodley • **StorageMart # 3017-8929 Weston Rd, Woodbridge On. L4L-1A6:** Sandra Tulshi Unit #53 , Gaetano Buda Unit #72, Gino Micieli Unit #100 • **Storage Mart # 3024 - 81 Arrow Rd, Toronto, On M9M-2L4:** # 1087 Owen Rattray, # 1153 Mubarak Salad, # 1161 Jennifer-Ann Paul, # 1224 Margo Bibby, # 1257 Bryan Peters, # 1285 Sahida Sairsingh, # 2088 Renat Gazoukin, # 2112 Amalia Rios, # 2187 Jackie Shepherd, # 2258 Faith Healing And Bible Chruch c/o Adolphus Marvey, # 2285 Adelek Soetan, # 1011 Sherri King • **StorageMart #3028 10345 Keele Street, Maple ON L6A-3Y9:** #1148 Delia Plastina, #1200 Frank Geivelis, #2071 Richard Teti, #2128 Anthony Barbieri, #1287 Stephen Marek • StorageMart #3029 - 867 Nipissing Road, Milton ON L9T 4Z4: C04 Michail Nikias

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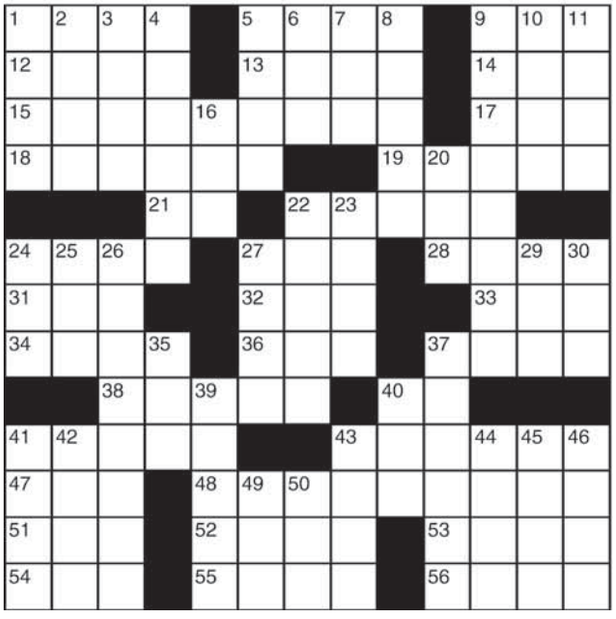

Across

1 Employer
5 Tulip, at first
9 Pair
12 Pulitzer winner James
13 Sandwich treat
14 Disencumber
15 Ornamentations
17 Fuss
18 Soap opera, e.g.
19 Bank job, e.g.
21 Lumberjack's need
22 India's first PM
24 Picnic invaders
27 "30 Rock" star
28 Recognize
31 Round Table address
32 Director Spike —
33 Dead heat
34 Thick chunk
36 Toss in
37 Snitched
38 High heels, often
40 Battery size
41 Void
43 Big step
47 Evening hour, in a way
48 Dulcimer's shape
51 Egos' counterparts
52 Medal earner
53 Unsigned (Abbr.)
54 Ignited
55 Cushiony
56 Singer Mouskouri

Down

1 Crazy
2 Shrek, e.g.
3 Burn some
4 Brownish photo hues
5 Reach 212 degrees F
6 Grecian vessel
7 Journey segment
8 "The Garden of Earthly Delights" painter
9 Decorative quilt design
10 Broad
11 Smell
16 Peace (Lat.)
20 Noah's craft
22 Has to have
23 Watched
24 Ninny
25 Zilch
26 Member of a silent religious order
27 Envelope part
29 OPEC export
30 Tie the knot
35 However
37 Burroughs hero
39 Legends
40 Noshed
41 Satanic
42 Calf-length
43 Name for a Dalmatian
44 New Rochelle school
45 "My Heart Will Go On" singer
46 Writer Ferber
49 — Speedwagon
50 Remark from 43-Down

▶ Yesterday's answer

B	O	L	A		N	A	B		B	E	T	H
A	K	I	N		E	M	U		A	R	I	A
B	A	N	K	R	U	P	T		Z	U	L	U
E	Y	E	L	E	T		C	H	A	P	E	L
			E	A	R		H	E	A	T		
S	A	D		D	A	M		W	R	I	S	T
P	R	I	G		L	I	S		S	O	L	E
A	I	S	L	E		A	P	E		N	Y	C
		R	A	M	P			A	S	H		
M	O	U	S	S	E			R	A	I	S	E	S
A	L	P	S		A	B	R	U	P	T	L	Y
R	I	T	E		C	O	O		P	A	I	N
T	O	S	S		H	O	W		O	G	E	E

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

9					5		6	
			9	1			7	
	3		6					2
	9	5		2				
4			7		6			5
				8		9	3	
7					9		4	
	1			6	7			
	2		8					6

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

8	2	7	3	1	6	4	5	9
6	9	5	7	2	4	8	1	3
4	3	1	9	8	5	2	6	7
2	6	9	5	7	3	1	8	4
5	1	3	4	9	8	6	7	2
7	4	8	2	6	1	9	3	5
9	5	6	1	4	7	3	2	8
3	8	2	6	5	9	7	4	1
1	7	4	8	3	2	5	9	6

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I love you Daniel Pikel, thanks for being an amazing man! Peyton & I are very lucky to have you in our lives! cant wait for the rest of our lives together baby! <3 :) **CRYSTAL**

Dear liz, I love you so much, these games you're playing needs to stop! life is too short my darling. you need to start embracing life more and take more chances. if you love me then tell me you fool.....Or you leave me no choice but to go after your sister LOL..... **MARK**

Him, Chillaxin with mah tallboyz! whoo hoo! Wahhhhhhhhh! feels great! you're there am here...was a superb day! See, bouncing back into the saddle. Whatever! Should've turned out da other way. oh well, life goes on! **HER**

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40%
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Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You will find yourself caught up in some sort of feud today and being a pugnacious Aries you will probably quite enjoy it.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 The best kind of work is teamwork, so join forces with like-minded people.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 You have taken on too many duties and responsibilities of late, both at home and at work, and need to cut back if you are to avoid exhausting yourself.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You need a deeper, more serious relationship.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Try to remember that it's not all about money and status. Love counts too.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 This is one of those times when you must take risks and push boundaries. If you don't you may look back one day and regret it.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Like most Libras you rarely get angry, but you will surprise a few people today.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Start early, finish late and focus only on tasks that take you closer to your long-term goals.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Remember that co-operation always makes things easier.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Life is always a gamble, that's one of the things that makes it so interesting.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You seem to believe that someone in a position of authority is plotting against you.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Mars in your opposite sign is bringing a number of challenges, not least in the guise of people who oppose your ideas and beliefs. But what of it? If your beliefs are correct you have nothing to worry about.

SALLY BROMPTON

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KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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For the latest information, visit us at chevrolet.ca, drop by your local Chevrolet Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. *Offer applies to the purchase of 2012 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD R7A. ‡2.75% purchase financing offered by GMCL for 72 months on 2012 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD R7A. O.A.C by Ally. Rates from other lenders will vary. Example: $10,000 at 2.75% APR, monthly payment is $150.82 for 72 months. Cost of borrowing is $859.04. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly/Bi-weekly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Bi-weekly payments based on a purchase price of $26,495 with $2,850 down payment. †‡Freight & PDI ($1,495), registration, air and tire levies and OMVIC fees included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, dealer fees and applicable taxes not included. Offers apply as indicated to 2012 new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Chevrolet Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealers are free to set individual prices. Dealer order or trade may be required. Limited time offers which may not be combined with other offers. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ***Factory order or dealer trade may be required. ΔΔ2012 Chevrolet Equinox FWD. Fuel consumption ratings based on GM testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. ΔΔ2012 Chevrolet Equinox equipped with standard 2.4L ECOTEC I-4 engine. Fuel consumption based on GM Testing in accordance with Transport Canada testing methods. Competitive fuel consumption ratings based on Natural Resources Canada's 2011 Fuel Consumption Guide. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. ©For more information go to iihs.org/ratings. ©The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications, LLC, used under license. ∞Available on iPhone® and selectAndroid™ platforms. Visit onstar.ca for coverage map, details and system limitations. Services may vary by model and conditions. ††2012 Chevrolet Equinox LTZ. MSRP with freight, PDI & levies $35,729. Dealers are free to set individual prices. ◆◆No purchase necessary. Contest open to Canadian residents with a valid driver's license who have reached the age of majority in their province of residence. Contest runs from November 1, 2011 to January 16, 2012. Credit Awards include applicable taxes and can only be applied to the purchase or lease of a new 2011 or 2012 MY GM vehicle delivered from dealer stock, excluding Chevrolet Volt on or before January 16, 2012. 20 Vehicle Awards consist of either a 2012 GMC Terrain SLE2 FWD + 18" Machined Aluminum Wheels, Chrome Appearance Package and Rear Cargo Security Cover or a 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 2LT FWD + 18" Machined Aluminum Wheels. Factory order may be required for Vehicle Awards. Approximate retail value of each Vehicle Award is Equinox/Terrain $32,775 MSRP/$32,480 MSRP CDN, including freight. Not all awards have the same odds of winning. Correct answer to skill testing question required to claim an award. Some examples of odds are: to receive a $1,000 base award, 1 in 1; to receive a total award of $1,200, 1 in 30; to receive a total award of $10,000, 1 in 10,000; to receive a Vehicle Award, 1 in 20,000 (total awards and vehicle awards include the $1,000 base award). See your GM dealer, visit gm.ca or call 1-800-GM-DRIVE for full contest rules.